NewsRelease

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Langley Research Center
Hampton, Va. 23681-2199

Kathy Barnstorff
Langley Research Center, Hampton, Va.
(Office: 757/864-9886/Cellular: 757/344-8511)

Ken Hespe
National Consortium for Aviation Mobility, Hampton, Va.
(Office: 757/864-1086)

Mike Loomis
Indiana SATS Consortium, Inc., Fort Wayne, Ind.
(Office: 260/490-6100)

Ronnetta Slaughter
Lieutenant Governor's Office, Indianapolis, Ind.
(Office: 317/232-4789)

For Release: Feb. 25, 2004

RELEASE: 04-013

NEW STATE SATSLab ADDED TO SMALL AIRCRAFT TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

A NASA/FAA/industry partnership working to develop technologies and new operating capabilities that could enable a Small Aircraft Transportation System (SATS) has gained more support from aviation enthusiasts in the Midwest.

The establishment of a SATS consortium in Indiana brings to six the number of state or regional groups that are members of the National Consortium for Aviation Mobility, which has teamed with NASA and the FAA to make air travel more accessible to more people. SATLabs in Florida, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina and Virginia are already researching technologies to improve general aviation.

-more-

Media are invited to attend a Small Aircraft Transportation System seminar Friday, February 27 at the Omni Indianapolis North Hotel, 8181 N. Shadeland Avenue, Indianapolis. Indiana Lt. Governor Kathy Davis is scheduled to speak on the role of aviation in economic development at 9:30 a.m. She will be followed by Dr. Bruce Holmes, the Associate Director for Aerospace/Vehicle Systems Integration at NASA's Langley Research Center and representatives from the FAA and NCAM.

Researchers at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., and at the SATSLabs are developing integrated airborne systems, cockpit displays and operating procedures for advanced four to ten passenger aircraft. These technologies could help planes safely fly into underutilized rural and suburban airports, including many airfields that don't have radar or air traffic control towers. About 93 percent of people in the U.S. live within 30 minutes of one of these airports.

SATS research is focusing on four operating capabilities that may help permit people and goods to travel faster and farther, anywhere and any time. These technologies would allow:

- higher volume operations at airports that don't have control towers or terminal radar
- pilots to land safely in low visibility conditions at minimally equipped airports
- increased single-pilot performance
- SATS aircraft to integrate seamlessly into the complex national airspace

For more information about the Small Aircraft Transportation System, please check the Internet at:

http://sats.nasa.gov

For more information on the National Consortium for Aviation Mobility, please check the Internet at:

http://www.ncam-sats.org

For more information on the Indiana SATS Consortium, please check the Internet at:

http://www.IndianaSATS.com

-end